

TECHNICAL MEETING ON "STRATEGIES FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ARTEFACTS THROUGH RADIATION PROCESSING"

IAEA & Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia



View of the sanctuary after conservation and restoration (photo by G. Tomljenović, 2016., photo archive of the CRI)

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting is to share the recent experiences and advances in radiation technology for cultural heritage preservation and consolidation with the stakeholders like conservators, restorers and radiation technologists to expand the application of radiation technology in this area.

When: June 04-08, 2018

Where: Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

Description: The preservation of World Cultural Heritage (WCH) has emerged as a key issue for maintaining national identity, and understanding the influences or exchanges among civilizations throughout history. Cultural heritage artefacts are made up of materials varying from simple mono-components to complex structures integrating inorganic and organic materials. Many of artefacts such as easel and panel paintings, wooden sculptures, library materials, prints, textiles are based on natural organic materials which are prone to biological attack under improper conservation conditions.

Degradation by insects and microorganisms such as fungi and bacteria constitute a major threat against the long-term preservation of WCH.

The success and consolidation of the application of ionizing radiation for inactivation of microbes presents a powerful technique for the disinfection of paper, textiles and wood based cultural heritage artefacts. In recent years, collaboration of radiation processing facilities with cultural heritage institutions such as museums and libraries has opened new vistas for the use of this technology for treating large quantities of deteriorated products that required emergency intervention or had a complex structure that limited the use of conventional techniques. The wider use of this technique necessitates a multidisciplinary approach for effectively demonstrating that irradiation does not lead to unacceptable changes in the functional or decorative properties of the artefact as well does not compromise with the authenticity of the artefact. This Technical Meeting will aim at discussing the recent progress of work towards this goal.

The course will be conducted in English only



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